

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, PORG, CA

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

1. EDITORIAL IN MONTREAL GAZETTE OF NOVEMBER 11 ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO IS REPEATED BELOW FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION.

2. ILO SUFFERS FOR U.S. PIQUE

WORKERS OF THE WORLD MAY NOT SUFFER EXCESSIVELY FROM THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, BUT THE MOVE IS AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT JUST THE SAME.

3. PERHAPS THIS LAST REMNANT OF THE OLD LEAGUE OF NATIONS DOES FAIL TO PERFORM THE WAY THE U.S. WOULD LIKE; PERHAPS IT EVEN FAILS TO LIVE UP TO ITS OWN PRINCIPLES. WHO OR WHAT COUNTRY DOES NOT?

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THESE PRINCIPLES WILL BE BETTER SERVED BY HAVING ONE LESS VOICE TO SPEAK FOR THEM. EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION DEMANDS ADHERENCE TO THE IDEA OF UNIVERSALITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF SOMETIMES MISGUIDED DECISIONS.

5. A NATION THAT SUBSCRIBES WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO THE CONCEPT OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE, IN SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD SURELY FIND THE INNER UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOURCES TO PUT UP WITH ONE NATION, ONE VOTE, IN INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLIES.

6. OF COURSE THE ILO HAS FLAWS. ONE OF THEM IS ITS SYSTEM OF TRIPARTITE NATIONAL DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING LABOR, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS MEANS THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT FOR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE U.S. HAS MANAGED TO

LIVE WITH IT FOR HALF A CENTURY.

7. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT THE ILO HAS BECOME POLITICIZED, FOOLISHLY STIRRING AMERICAN OPPOSITION WITH AN IRRELEVANT 1974 RESOLUTION ACCUSING ISRAEL OF RACISM.

8. NEVERTHELESS, THE ILO HAS DONE GOOD WORK GATHERING STATISTICS, PUBLISHING REPORTS, AND SETTING UP TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES - AN EFFORT THAT WON IT THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1969.

9. WASHINGTON'S WITHDRAWAL IS AT HEART AN INTERNAL POLITICAL DECISION.

10. WITH THE AFL-CIO, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND THE HEWISH COMMUNITY ALL FAVORING IT, PRESIDENT CARTER WAS IN NO POSITION TO RESIST. AND THE DAY THE DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED WAS THE SAME DAY MR. CARTER SIGNED THE MINIMUM-WAGE BILL RAISING THE BASE PAY FOR U.S. WORKERS TO \$3.35 AN HOUR BY 1981.

11. IT WAS QUITE AN OCCASION FOR AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY, THE AGING EMINENCE OF THE CONSERVATIVE U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT.

12. IN POLITICS, OF COURSE, THERE IS ALWAYS A QUID FOR A QUO, AND WHAT MR. CARTER HAS GAINED IS THE FORMIDABLE MEANY LOBBYING APPARATUS IN SUPPORT OF HIS ENERGY BILL AND PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.
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IT IS JUST TOO BAD THEY COULDN'T STAND BETTER ON THEIR OWN MERITS.
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